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X-PECT THE UNX-PECTED...

PETER DAVID • RYAN SOOK

X-FACTOR®

Calero • Von Grawbadger • Villarrubia



DIRECT EDITION

RATED T+



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IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR



X-FACTOR'S FORCES ARE SPREAD THIN. MADROX AND SIRYN, INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THEIR CLIENT, GLORIA SANTIAGO, MURDERED HER OWN SISTER, HAVE RUN INTO AN INFORMATIONAL STONE WALL. A WALL PUT UP BY DAMIAN TRYP, JUNIOR, VICE PRESIDENT AT SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS, WHO IS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF JACK VAUGHN, THE MOVIE STAR WHO'D BEEN ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH GLORIA'S SISTER AND SWEARS THAT SHE, GLORIA, IS THE ONE WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER.

MEANWHILE A MOB OF ANTI-MUTANT BIGOTS ARE RIOTING IN MUTANT TOWN, ATTACKING THE FORMER MUTANTS CURRENTLY RESIDING THERE. BUT THEIR ASSAULTS ARE CUT SHORT WHEN STRONG GUY AND WOLFSBANE STEP IN AND DRIVE THEM OUT OF MUTANT TOWN WITH A THREAT NEVER TO SET FOOT THERE AGAIN.

WHILE THAT'S HAPPENING, AN ASSASSIN WORKING FOR SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS TRICKS HIS WAY INTO X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS WITH THE INTENTION OF BLOWING AWAY RICTOR. HE IS FATALLY THWARTED IN THE ATTEMPT BY LAYLA MILLER, WHO DEFTLY SETS A SERIES OF EVENTS INTO MOTION THAT CULMINATE IN THE ASSASSIN'S DEATH BY "ACCIDENTAL" ELECTROCUTION.

GOT ALL THAT? GOOD. LET'S ROCK...

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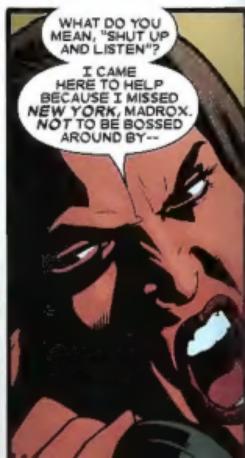
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T'S KIND OF IRONIC, REALLY.
WHILE SIRYN AND I WERE
UPTOWN AT A POLICE STATION,
WAITING FOR MONET...

...THERE WAS POLICE ACTION DOWN-TOWN AT "IMUTANT SQUARE," THE NICKNAME FOR THE SUBWAY STOP ON THE BORDER OF MUTANT TOWN...

...OR AT LEAST WHAT
WAS LEFT OF MUTANT
TOWN AFTER M-DAY--
THE DECIMATION.

COPS WERE COMING IN RESPONSE TO
EMERGENCY CALLS FROM PEOPLE
SHOUTING THAT THE MUTANT TOWN
POPULATION HAD GONE BERSERK.

NATURALLY THEY FAILED TO
MENTION THAT THEY THEMSELVES
WERE SO-CALLED "REALS"...

...DEDICATED TO TORMENTING
THE NEWLY MINTED NON-
MUTANTS OUT OF JEALOUSY,
PETTINESS...WHATEVER.

HOWEVER, THEY'D ONLY
MANAGED TO UNITE AN
ALREADY FRACTURED
AND DEVASTATED MUTANT
TOWN AGAINST THEM.

SO NOW THE POLICE HAD
BEEN SUMMONED TO
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

IMAGINE THEIR SURPRISE...

...WHEN THE POLICE WERE INFORMED OF THE NEW STATUS QUO.

EVENING,
GENTLEMEN, WE'RE
FROM X-FACTOR. MY
CODE NAME IS "CAN
CRUSH YOU WITH A
GLANCE" MAN...

...AND
THIS IS MY
PARTNER, "ONCE
DISEMBOWELED A
FELLOW JUST TO
WATCH HIM DIE"
GIRL.

LET'S TAKE
TEN SECONDS TO
CONSIDER WHY WE'RE
CALLED THAT, AND WHAT
IT CAN MEAN FOR YOUR
LONG-TERM HEALTH
PROSPECTS.

VINES IN THE SHIN

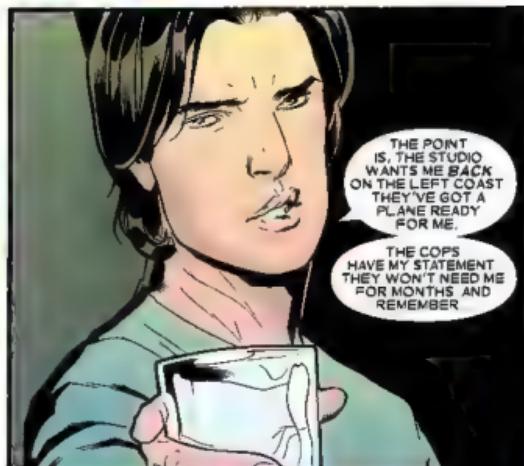






















AND THIS TIME...WHOOPS
GLORIA BURST IN. YOU
GOT STARTLED...

BOOM.
I'M DEAD.

BUT YOU
THOUGHT FAST. WITH
GLORIA IN SHOCK, YOU
CALLED SINGULARITY
AND PRESTO! INSTANT
SCAPEGOAT

G-G-GET
AWAY.

OHHHHH NO
NO, WE'RE GOING
TO BE PAST FRIENDS
YOU AND I

I'LL BE WITH YOU
THE REST OF YOUR
LIFE, REMINDING
YOU, TEASING
YOU--

NOOOO!
NO, NO!

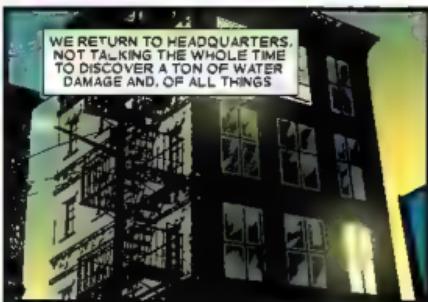
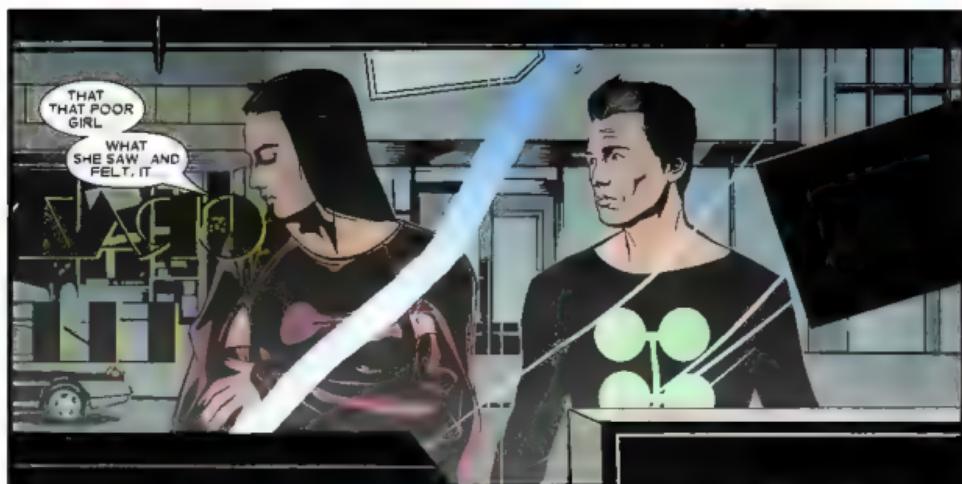
I'LL KILL
YOU! I'LL KILL
YOU AGAIN! I'LL
KEEP KILLING YOU,
NO MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES IT
TAKES.

JACK!
MR. VAUGHN,
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?
WHAT'S--?

WHAT
THE--?!

KILL
YOU! KILL
YOU!!!!













X-FACTOR

Peter A. [stands for "Agog"] David here, welcoming you to the lettercol of our fourth issue. And they said we wouldn't last! Both issues one and two sold out, which always leaves me with mixed feelings. On the one hand, it's great they were that popular. On the other, it indicates that retailers underestimated the demand. Remember, the best thing you can do to help your local comic shop is tell them, in advance, that you're going to be buying X-FACTOR and that they should order you a copy. Now let's jump to the letters which, as always, are edited for length but no meanings have been changed:

Hi Guys,

I was wondering if Pietro might be showing up here after SON OF M? Only if the guys are investigating M-Day it makes sense their investigations would lead them to him, and Peter David wrote him so well on the original run.

So, I guess that's my one wish so far for this title, aside from a long and successful run, naturally.

Paul M Slattery

Funny you should ask: Yes. As of issue #7, the first cracks in the investigation of M-Day will occur and by issue #8 the arrival of Quicksilver completely blasts everything apart. Be sure to tell your retailer to order copies in advance.



Dear PAD,

Finally I got my hands on new X-FACTOR issues #1 and #2, and I have to say it's quite a good read. I bought the MADROX limited series because you wrote it and Rahne played a part in it. This new series is even better, because now we get Siryn and Rictor as well.

Monet is a negative factor; I mean does anybody exist who really likes that

girl?

Ryan Sook's artwork is great and your writing as always is top-notch. I hope we'll still see some of the funnier problems Jamie had with his duplicates in the mini-series, because some humor is always welcome. There is only one thing I didn't like much, the way Jamie introduced Siryn to Rictor, like he didn't know her at all. As mentioned above they have been teammates in X-Force for a couple of years. It's clear you only wanted to give us readers the insight on the character and her newfound ability—still, you could have made it in a more plausible way. Since this is my only complaint and I plan on buying the book for a long time, let me thank the whole creative team for their efforts.

Dieter Nagy
Mannheim, Germany

To be honest, Dieter, Madrox's dialogue in that sequence was written more for the first-time reader than it was for those familiar with the lengthy history of the characters' relations. Many people commented positively on how "accessible" issue #1 was to those who weren't longtime mutants fans. That accessibility came specifically from sequences such as the one you described. I figured that the new fans would be appreciative of having everything spelled out with minimal reference to historic details, and the long-time fans would come up with in-story explanations as to why things were written that way ("Clearly Madrox is starting to have short-term memory lapses; that could lead to something.") And by the way, I like Monet; if I didn't, she wouldn't be in the book. And speaking of Monet...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The MADROX trade paperback is on sale now!

I just want to say as a longtime fan of X-FACTOR, and its many incarnations over the years, I'm pretty interested

in this new direction. However, I have one gripe: Monet. I have known of this character since she was introduced and from my understanding she was a person of African (somewhere in there) descent, or a person of color. Where the heck is that shown in this comic? It seems as if the number of black characters is falling by the wayside. Anyhow, just an observation. Can't wait to see where this goes.

Sam Wilcox
Via Internet



Monet's skin tone, and what it should be, set off a flurry of researching into her history. And boy, it was confusing and rife with contradictions. Bottom line, although Monet has very dark skin, we're not entirely sure she's African-anything. Nevertheless, we're likely darkening her skin a bit.

Come back next issue to find out what fate has in store for X-FACTOR in "Captive Audience."



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